

REMARKS

Claims 6-12, 14-16, 18, 20, 21, and 23-79 are pending, with claims 6, 9, 24, 31, 40, 48, 55, and 64 being independent and being amended by virtue of this response. Claims 1-5, 13, 17, 19, and 22 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New dependent claims 72-79 are added by virtue of this response. No new matter is added.

Claims 6-12, 14-16, 18, 20, 21, and 23-71 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's "Description of the Related Art" (DRA) on pages 1-4 of the specification, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,529,937 to Zhang et al. (Zhang).

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the interview of April 13, 2004, during which the above rejection(s), as well as the present amendments, were discussed. Based on these discussions, and considering the present amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that the proposed combination of Applicant's DRA in view of Zhang, even if valid, does not disclose or fairly suggest all of the recited elements of at least the independent claims 6, 9, 24, 31, 40, 48, 55, and 64, as amended.

For example, independent claim 6 recites, "patterning the crystalline semiconductor film to form at least one crystalline semiconductor island of a functional array of semiconductor islands, using the first crystalline portion while the second crystalline portion is not used to form any crystalline semiconductor island of the functional array of semiconductor islands...wherein the second crystalline portion is located between the crystalline semiconductor island and the second metal element added region..."

As discussed during the April 13 interview, neither Applicant's DRA nor Zhang discloses or properly suggests at least these features. For example, Applicant's DRA, e.g., FIG. 8 of Applicant's specification, teaches that the metal element added region 812 includes a crystalline portion between itself and the semiconductor island 803 that is used to form a semiconductor island (805) of the array of islands 801-808. Zhang is not cited for providing any teaching on this point, and, in fact, does not provide any relevant teaching on this point.

Somewhat similarly, independent claim 9 recites, “patterning the crystalline semiconductor film to form at least one crystalline semiconductor island of a functional array of semiconductor islands, using the first crystalline portion while the second crystalline portion is not used to form any crystalline semiconductor island of the functional array of semiconductor islands, wherein the second metal element added region is located at a peripheral edge of the group of active elements ...” In contrast, the metal element added region 812 of FIG. 8 is not located at a peripheral edge as claimed, since the islands 807 and 808 are included outside of the region 812 with respect to the semiconductor islands 801-806.

Additionally, independent claim 24 recites, “patterning the crystalline semiconductor film to form at least one crystalline semiconductor island of a functional array of semiconductor islands, using the first crystalline portion while the second crystalline portion is not used to form any semiconductor island of the functional array of semiconductor islands, wherein the second crystalline portion extends along an entire length of the second metal element added region...” As already discussed, neither Applicant's DRA nor Zhang, whether taken alone or in combination, discloses or properly suggests these features, since, as already pointed out, FIG. 8 of Applicant's specification that is cited in the Office Action teaches that the metal element added region 812 includes a crystalline portion between itself and the semiconductor island 803 that is used to form a semiconductor island (805) of the array of islands 801-808.

Independent claims 31, 40, 48, 55, and 64 include the same or similar limitations as those discussed above with respect to at least one of independent claims 6, 9, and 24, and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons. As a result, all of independent claims 6, 9, 24, 31, 40, 48, 55, and 64 are believed to be in condition for allowance, along with dependent claims 7, 8, 10-12, 14-16, 18, 20, 21, 23, 25-30, 32-39, 41-47, 49-54, 56-63, and 65-79, and such action is hereby requested in the Examiner's next official communication.

Applicant : Ohtani, et al.
Serial No. : 09/455,991
Filed : December 6, 1999
Page : 21 of 21

Attorney's Docket No.: 07977-
213002 / US3521/3522D1

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this paper. In the event that any fees are due, please apply any charges to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 6, 2004

William G. Hughes, Jr.
William G. Hughes, Jr.
Reg. No. 46,112

Fish & Richardson P.C.
1425 K Street, N.W.
11th Floor
Washington, DC 20005-3500
Telephone: (202) 783-5070
Facsimile: (202) 783-2331
WXH/adt
40213877.doc